

Your

FREE!

# Country Neighbor



December 2005



This month's cover picture is this 'Christmas Card' west of Johnson and east of Tecumseh.

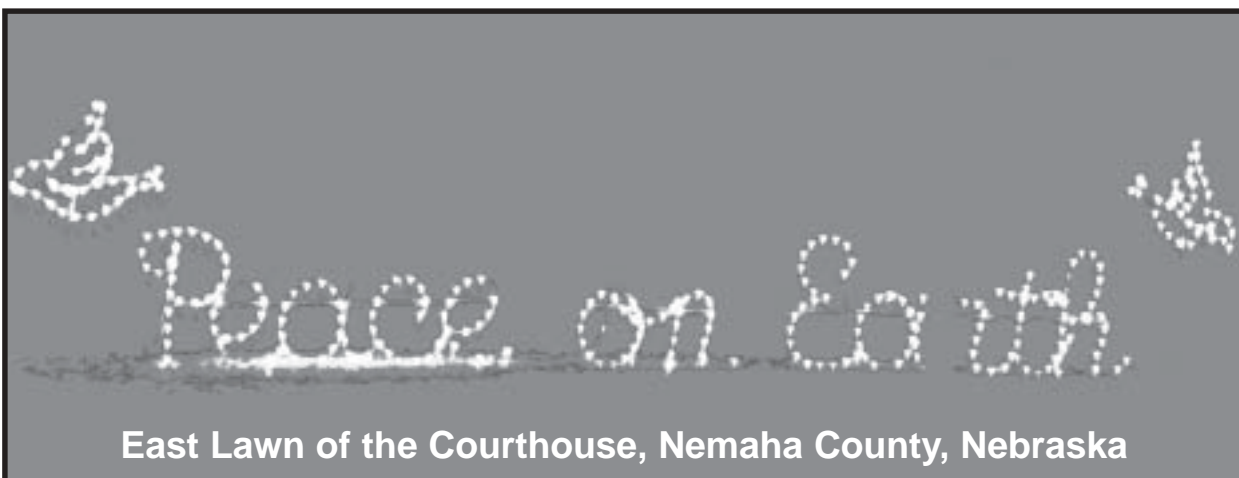
## YOUR WINDOW WITH A COUNTRY VIEW

Your Country Neighbor is pleased to announce its **new** publication,

### The Nemaha County **Voice.**

The new publication will report on the lives and happenings in **Nemaha County, Nebraska** with a new and fresh approach that will make you want to start reading a newspaper again. Buy it at the locations listed on the back of this publication, or subscribe now, and as a charter subscriber, your cost per issue will never go up, not even after we begin publishing on a weekly basis. That will happen when we have enough subscribers to convince advertisers that their best choice to reach customers is

### The Nemaha County **Voice.**



East Lawn of the Courthouse, Nemaha County, Nebraska

### Brownville, Nebraska 'Old Time Christmas'

Includes 'Tour of Homes' 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:15 p.m.

More details on page 6.

**December 3 & 4**

### Auburn, Nebraska 'Christmas on the Square'

2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday December 4**

### Seneca, Kansas

Seneca Chamber of Commerce member stores will host a special "candlelight shopping night" until 8:00 p.m. See page 4&5

**Wednesday, Dec. 7**

### December is about...

December is about Christmas. It's about the anticipation of another year of life in this Midwest region of seasonal beauty with real American values; a good work ethic, small town living and farm life, and the blessings of changing weather, golden harvests, adventurous living. The home of 'spacious skies and amber waves of grain.'

December finds us trying to keep warm, but wishing for snow. Complaining about commercialism, but loving the shopping experience. Doubting small businesses can make a difference, but buying Christmas gifts of locally produced wines, from grape to glass that rival the best California has to offer, not to mention complimenting *Your Country Neighbor* as the best publication in Southeast Nebraska.

Finally, *Your Country Neighbor* is privileged to welcome new writers; Shirley Neddenriep, from rural Johnson in Nemaha County, Nebraska., and Marvin Thomas, who grew up in Brownville and now lives in Topeka, Kansas.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone, and don't forget to buy the Nemaha County Voice!

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**GROWING WITH  
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**In Nebraska:** Auburn, Avoca, Barada, Brock, Brownville, Cook, Dawson, Dubois, Elk Creek, Falls City, Humboldt, Johnson, Lorton, Nebraska City, Nehawka, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee City, Peru, Shubert, Stella, Syracuse, Table Rock, Talmage, Tecumseh, Union, Verdon, and Weeping Water.

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**In Kansas:** Corning, Fairview, Goff, Hiawatha, Horton, Morrill, Oneida, Sabetha, Seneca, and Wetmore.

Your

## **COUNTRY NEIGHBOR**

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Thank you!  
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**Look for Your Hometown Photos**  
at this website:  
**[www.YourCountryNeighbor.com](http://www.YourCountryNeighbor.com)**  
(capital letters optional)

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## Window on Fifth Street

When I was in the second or third grade, I seldom had homework except for “Numbers.” “Numbers” involved many demeaning, laborious tasks of counting pictures of pennies and dimes and other coins; of counting a row of three trees, then another row of six trees, and putting them all together and counting nine trees. I guess that was the way the concept of addition was introduced to me. But I was bored. And not only did I have to study numbers at school, I sometimes had to do a lesson at it home. I preferred to chase butterflies around the school yard’s blanket of dandelions, put them in a jar and feed it blossoms.

My mother was nurturing and understanding, and knowing that numbers were important, I guess she wanted to motivate me. She told me that I was good with numbers just like my father. My dad sat at the dining room table nightly with his long heavy ledger of long green pages with so many lines up and down and across, where he would write with his ‘Pioneer Seed Corn’ pencil, the numbers that said how much fertilizer cost, and numbers of bushels of corn that were in the south 40 or the west 40. I was relieved that I was good at numbers, but I really wanted to collect butterflies.

I remember having trouble with multiplication and division in the fourth grade, fractions in the fifth grade, and square root in the eighth grade, but I persisted because I knew I was good at numbers. Eventually I learned those concepts, and when High School Geometry came along, learning it was just a matter of time, so I spent a lot of time on Geometry, and learned a lot of it. Trigonometry was difficult, Calculus in college nearly defeated me, but I spent half my time on Calculus that semester, because I knew I could master it, eventually. Finally, I had a college degree in Mathematics. I was ready for anything.

But I had this new car with monthly payments and a car insurance rate for age-22 males, and I was out of college and out of work. It was time to find a real job. My car was my life, and I had to make those payments. After a frustrating period of several weeks, a referral agency sent me to an advertising company. The man who became my ‘boss’ had a math degree as well, so I guess he must have thought I had to be good at something. And so began my career in advertising, marketing, and sales.

After my boys were raised, I went back to school, looking for a better career than sales. I decided I would get a Masters Degree in Math, and teach college. After all, mom said I was good at numbers. After several

years of going to graduate school part time, and working at MacDonalds and doing substitute teaching, I was fortunate to get a position teaching college algebra at Peru State College. That was the best part time job ever! But one day, I got the wild idea of publishing a newspaper, which turned out to be an even better part time job. I had to learn to take pictures, which was fun. I started by taking photos of businesses, then barns, windmills and other country scenes, then birds and trees and butterflies and wildflowers. Butterflies! I had collected butterflies every summer from the first grade to my junior year in High School. I wanted to be a biologist who went on journeys following butterfly and bird migrations, but I was good at numbers, and numbers were more practical in life than butterflies. How was one to make a living collecting butterflies?

These days other people sell *Your Country Neighbor* advertising, so I can spend more time taking pictures. Weekly, I attend that outdoor classroom on the trail, along the roadside, near the water, watching for the Redtail Hawk, the Indigo Bunting, the Bald Eagle. But the *Tiger Swallowtail* butterfly’s display of delicacy and beauty makes me feel like a kid in the school yard chasing across the dandelions after a pair of powerful, lacy wings belonging to an earthbound angel, dancing in the air with a little boy.

It has taken me about forty years to learn a lesson that might be of value to you, your son, your daughter, your husband. When you are struck by a dream, follow that dream. If you don’t, it will follow you. It will haunt you the rest of your life until it has the opportunity to strike you a second time. And it will knock you down, turn you around, and make you start all over again.



Years later, back at the beginning.  
This time I will take the ‘one less traveled’.

**Color Photos**  
at  
**www.yourcountryneighbor.com**

**E-mail this publication**  
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Residential Manager, Peg Sandersfeld

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## Christmas Memories

by Penny Zeller

Some of my favorite Christmas memories as a child come from the holiday shopping season. We lived close to Manhattan, and at that time the anchor stores were Duckwalls, Woolworth, Montgomery Wards, J.C. Penney's and Sears, where my Mother worked for many years.

Shopping night was Thursday's, and with Mom at work, it was Dad's duty to bring my sister and me to town to visit Santa and choose gifts. The amount of money we had to spend was meager but it was not the spending that was important to us...it was the spirit and trimmings of the season we knew awaited that made us eager for the outing.

'Candy Cane Lane' lavished 3rd Street with cane-decorated light poles and Christmas lights crisscrossing the center. Enter Poyntz Avenue and you were greeted with more of the same and the large Christmas tree billowing from above the center of the block. Carols would fill the air from the public address system and store windows were dressed with large decorated gift boxes, fake snow and yes, aluminum tensile trees!

Santa's house was located on the corner of the Riley County Courthouse lawn, painted in red and white with the warm glow of amber light always emanating from the inside. This, of course was our first stop of the evening. A turn on Santa's lap, list in hand, to make sure he knew what we were wishing for! Then it was off to shop!

Duckwalls would be filled to the top with toys, candy, cards and gift wrap. Across the street at Woolworth's, more of the same but in its own distinct way of display. Sears, Penney's and "Monkey Wards" donned fuzzy warm clothing for Christmas and the long winter months ahead. One of my favorite things to browse through was the holiday dresses. Times were more formal then and one dressed up for Christmas day activities. Red, blue and black velvets; tartan plaid skirts with ruffled blouses; red, blue, and green satin trimmed with white lace collars, just to name a few.

With the hustle and bustle of the busy season, store clerks were sometimes grumbly, but I learned at an early age, flash a big smile their direction and they automatically softened. As they rang up the sale and tucked the items safely inside the sack, they always left us with a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" greeting.

While these are my memories, I'm assured you have those of your own. Keeping them close in heart and mind is one thing, but to relive them again with your children and grandchildren, would that not be a very special treat?

Come spend a little 'Christmastime' in Seneca, where traditions abound and you'll feel like you've never grown up!

Crisscrossing Christmas lights show you the way to Main Street where Santa is making his way into town by horse-drawn buggy. Church choir's sing in the season while candy sacks await children as they take turns on Santa's lap. Stores are filled to the brim with holiday gift ideas, cards and decor. Those ever popular toys and Christmas candy deck the isle at Seneca Variety. And yes, that fuzzy, warm clothing that will keep us cozy throughout the Kansas winter can be found in not one but five different stores! Whether Seneca is your hometown or you hail from another, you'll truly feel you've "Come Home To Christmas" if you "Come Home to Seneca."

Holiday shopping hours will include Wednesday evenings to 8 p.m., beginning Nov. 30th, and Sunday afternoons from noon to 3 p.m., began Nov. 13th in most stores. Want a sneak peek of holiday offerings? Come to Seneca on Sunday, Nov. 13 for the pre-Christmas Opening! Most stores open noon to 3 p.m. with special discounts and refreshments!



**Wrap Up Christmas At Seneca Variety!**

**Find Christmas table cloths, kitchen towels & silk florals; Christmas trees; decorations, lights, & candy; gift wrap & cards!**

**Children on Your List? Find toys including Tonka & John Deere; specializing in toys for infants & toddlers; many games & children's books! Free Gift Wrapping Offered!**

**Looking ahead to 2006? Restock your office supplies at Seneca Variety. Plus, find all the items you'll need to do your taxes including accordion tax files, record boxes & more!**

**Seneca Variety**  
 425 Main Street, Seneca, KS  
 ph. 785-336-6126  
 Open M-F 8 to 5:30, Sat. 8 to 4:30  
 Open Sundays to Christmas-noon - 3p.m.

*Bring Christmas Comfort Home From Brinker's Home Furnishings...*

**Quality Brand Names:**  
 La-z-Boy Chrome Craft Eastman House

**Gift Items:** Collegiate Bean Bags; Computer Desks & Stands; Student Desks; Floor Lamps.

**Bring Your Child to Brinker's on Sunday, Dec. 4, from noon to 3 p.m., for photos with Santa by Deters Photography. Only \$4 for a 5X7 Print!**



**Hours:** Open 8 a.m. daily Mon.-Sat. Or, call for Appointment.  
**Special Holiday Hours:** Wednesdays to 8 p.m., Dec. 7 to Dec. 21. Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, noon to 3 p.m. Week of Dec. 19th to 23rd, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Gift Certificates Always Available!

**Brinker's Home Furnishings**  
 807 North Street, Seneca, KS  
 785-336-6356



**Earn a kiss from your "Mrs. Claus" when you buy her new appliances from Joe Mitchell Appliance & Radio Shack!**

Joe Mitchell's is a full-service appliance store offering brands like Maytag, GE, Whirlpool, Jenn Air, Amana, LG, & Frigidaire! Gift Certificates Available!

Or, treat your family to the sounds of the season with a new portable radio, CD & MP3 player. 'Sirius' radio, DVD/VCR player, or a new television!



**Joe Mitchell Appliance & Radio Shack**  
 611 North 11th Street, Seneca, KS  
 Hours: M-F 8- 5:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. -Noon  
 Holiday Hours: Open Sunday's to Christmas, noon to 3 p.m., Wednesdays to 8 p.m.  
 785-336-2008

**Come Home to Christmas....Come Home to Seneca**

**Offering the following special events and entertainment.**

On Sunday, Dec. 4, from noon to 3 p.m., have your child's photo taken with Santa Claus! Santa will be visiting Brinker's Home Furnishings, on U.S. Highway 36, and Deters Photography will take the photo, a 5x7 for just \$4...the Seneca Chamber of Commerce will have a free sack of candy for your child as well!

Then on Wednesday, Dec. 7, Seneca Chamber of Commerce member stores will host a special "candlelight shopping night." Stores will be open for shopping to 8 p.m. with special sales, refreshments, and a very special atmosphere. Plus, starting at 6:30 p.m., on Main Street, enjoy special holiday entertainment by the Nemaha Valley High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Dirk Colgrove, followed by Ann Moser's string instrument students.



And if that was not enough, come back to Seneca on Wednesday, Dec. 14 for more special activities! Santa Claus will be back in town to greet children at the Sweet Tooth, 410 Main Street. Plus, children will get to sign up to win one of five, \$10.00 Chamber of commerce Gift Certificates. (No purchase necessary). And, if children bring in a canned food item or other nonperishable food item for the NEK-CAP Food Pantry, they will receive a free movie rental from Ray's Hometown Video! Beginning at 7:20 p.m., Little Steps Dance and Gymnastics Studio students will perform on Main Street, under the direction of Sharon Deters.



I will try to put this Seneca scene on my website.  
Merry Christmas, Seneca.  
Thank you for supporting Your Country Neighbor.



Downtown Seneca could be Anytown, USA, but it's more.

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 \* gifts, & items perfect for commemorating weddings &  
 \* anniversaries. Free gift wrapping, cards & gift  
 \* certificates available. Open to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.  
 \*   
 \* 521 Main Street, Seneca, KS  
 \* Ph. 785-336-6311  
 \* Hours: M-F 9:30 a.m. to 5 P.m.;  
 \* Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 \* *Christian Books & Gifts*  
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 Open M-F 9-5:30 Sat. 9-4  
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 Wednesdays, open to 8 p.m.,  
 Dec. 19, 20, 22, & 23, open to 7 p.m.

**Treat Your Feet to Something Special This Christmas with Brands & Styles From The Shoe Center!** 

Offering: SAS, Born, Clarks, Mootsies-Tootsies, Soft Spots, Eastland's, Skechers, Grasshoppers, Keds, Nike, Adidas, & New Balance!

Also Find Gift items like: Nike socks, gym bags, & back packs; Nike & Adidas sports wear; house slippers; purses; Jox Sox. Gift certificates always available & for Christmas, FREE gift wrap!

 **The Shoe Center**  
 Your Family's Shoe Source!  
 422 Main Street, Seneca, KS  
 785-336-2434  
 Hours: M-F 9-5:30, Sat. 8:30-4:30  
 Special Holiday Hours: Sundays, noon to 3 p.m., Wednesday's open to 8 p.m.

# BROWNVILLE



Carson House



Missouri River Bridge



Brownville Mills  
formerly  
"The Lone Tree Saloon"

**MARY'S  
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See Mary's Jewelry & Collectibles  
on Main Street in Brownville  
**402-825-6637**  
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## Old Time Christmas

(Non-Profit Fund Raising Project for BHS & BFAA)

### Tour of Homes In Historic Brownville, Nebraska

Saturday & Sunday December 3rd & 4th  
1:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Christmas Tour of Homes and Sites in a  
Historic District Decorated for the Season**

Tickets - \$7.00 for Adults - \$4.00 for Children under 12  
Purchase Tickets at the Town Hall, Main Street from  
12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. the Day of the Tour

#### Other Activities Include

A Christmas Reading; "A Cup of Christmas Tea"  
In The Brownville Theatre  
Saturday & Sunday at 3:00 P.M.

#### Other Activities

Crafters, Bake Sale, Carriage Rides, Caroling,  
Tree Lighting Ceremony, Music, Food, Winery,  
Christmas Shopping, and Much More!

#### NEWS RELEASE

"Oh what fun it is to see yourself or family in a one-horse open sleigh." During Brownville's "Catch the Glow" Christmas weekend, December 3, 4 you can do just that! Between 1:00 - 5:00 PM, Saturday, December 3, W.C. Farmer Photography will be taking your pictures in the sleigh at the Wheel Museum.

Sipping cider or wine at Brownville's historic Whiskey Run Creek Winery while enjoying the beautiful surroundings is a treat by itself. The annual bake sale in the Town Hall supervised by Melva Sage and Erma Myers will get your taste buds active during this holiday season.

Stroll Brownville's main street and enjoy the food and beverages, antiques, collectibles, art, crafts, wine, brooms, books, health foods, ice cream available at Brownville's local shops.

Join with your neighbors and friends for the Christmas lighting countdown

on both the 3rd and 4th, at 5:15 PM at Boettner Park on Main Street which will truly set you in the holiday mood. Sixteen hundred dancing lights to Christmas music, musical selections by John Lauber, Jody Anderson, Linda DuBay and Nicole Kaufman will brighten your evening to where you will desire to sing your favorite carols.

The quiet walk up the illuminated Connector Trail from 5:00 -7:00 PM will relax you and find you in love with the heart of Brownville. The luminaries stretch from the Winery to or from Boettner Park. Carry one of your lanterns from home and share with your mate, family and neighbors, one of Brownville's new traditions.

Take the time to enjoy surroundings of seven Brownville homes and museums. Adorned with elegant Christmas decorations, these dwellings will find you "ooohing" and "ahing." They are open both December 3 and 4 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. Tickets must be purchased at the Town Hall. Cost is \$7.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child (12 and

under).

Your appetite will be satisfied with various treats and homemade soup from Brownville's newest establishment, "The Lyceum." You'll love your surroundings as well as the delectable tastes.

A carriage ride through our streets will brighten your holiday as you view many of the lighted yards and homes. What a treat!

Packed in the middle of the day at 3:00 PM is the Christmas Reading, "A Cup of Christmas Tea," to be held at the Brownville Village Theater. For a free-will offering you can enjoy this presentation.

If you enjoy Christmas and the giving or receiving of gifts, then come to Brownville December 3, 4 and give yourself this Christmas gift.

**Sweetwater  
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**Homebaked Sweets • Flavored Coffees  
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Through the Holidays we will be open most weekends,  
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month!**



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(402) 825-4131 Toll Free: 1-800-305-7990  
116 Main Street www.BrownvilleMills-Ne.com  
Brownville, NE 68321

## FISHING

by Marvin Thomas

I must have been four and sister Aurolyn a year older. Grandmother Thomas and Uncle John were staying with our family in Brownville while Mother and Dad were spending long hours establishing our store on a firm financial footing. Aurolyn and I had awakened from our early fall afternoon naps and were soon bored with our play being confined to our yard. "Couldn't we go fishing?" we proposed to Grandma.

"Why not" she responded, putting aside her sewing and tugging on her sun bonnet - her thinking cap. "Where can we go?" "Won't we need fishing poles?" "Of course", Grandma replied, "and these will do just fine," she said as she cut two long branches from our mulberry tree. For line, she found some lengths of small cord and tied these to the poles. Two walnuts, still wrapped in their green hulls, were appropriated for bait (fish would like these just fine, she assured us), and with string and a large darning needle she stitched through the walnut shells, tying them to the lines. The little foot bridge over a very small ditch at the edge of our lawn was just the place for us to dangle our lines into a washtub of water, she reasoned; so Aurolyn and I were soon watchfully guarding our lines, expecting any moment to be rewarded by a "bite" from a hungry fish. The remaining afternoon hours seemed long; there was a break for supper; then we renewed our vigil until dark, when bedtime was so disappointing...still no fish.

We slept late the next morning, until Grandma awakened us for breakfast. She knew of our disappointment from the evening before, but she explained that it rained during the night and that fish were often "rained" from the clouds. Thus, with renewed enthusiasm, we ran to the footbridge to check our lines. And, sure enough, Grandma was right! There on Aurolyn's line was a giant carp - at least it was so large the two of us couldn't pull it up onto the bridge. Grandma said she was no match for it either, so she hailed Jim Hannaford, who was passing along the street, and he eagerly helped us "land" our catch. Still, it was too heavy to carry, so we slid it across the wet grassy lawn to the house. Now Grandma showed us how the fish had to be cleaned (Ugh!) before it could be fried to become our noonday meal. It was a long time later when we learned how this hoax had been perpetrated...how Uncle John had bought the fish and tied it to the line, and how the fish really didn't care for the green walnuts. But, I never learned why the fish was on Aurolyn's line instead of mine.

Grandma is no longer with us, but the memory of her inventive scenario remains - a lovely episode in the lives of two of her grandchildren.



Reminds me of the creek I used to fish in...minnows don't bite.

**Closed For Inventory**  
**December 24 thru January 1**  
*Regular Business Hours Resume*  
**Monday, January 2**  
*Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas!*

**Auburn Sport Shop**  
 826 Central • Auburn, NE  
 (402) 274-5236

**Take Advantage of  
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**20% OFF**

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 1215 J Street, Auburn, Nebraska (402) 274-5495

**Completely Remodeled!  
Plus All New Kitchen!**

**1515 K Street                      \$65,900**

A good neighborhood and great location, this home is ready and waiting for a buyer to move right in. Completely remodeled, including new kitchen! Other offerings include large L-shaped living and dining, 4 bedrooms, and 2 1/2 baths. The lower level is finished into a family room, bedroom and laundry, plus has a separate entrance to outside. Vinyl siding and attached garage, this home is worth a look. Priced at \$65,900. See the professionals at:

**The American Dream Real Estate Company**  
 View our listings at:  
[www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com](http://www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com)

Vicki Rotkvic, Realtor.....274-3451  
 Carla Mason, Broker .....274-1329

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**820 Central Avenue                      Auburn, Nebraska**

# Country Scenes



Near Morrill, Kansas



Waiting for the Horse and Carriage, Auburn's Christmas Opening.



A friendly distributor of *Your Country Neighbor*.



One of the last handoffs of the season.



We won't see this scene much any more...if at all.



Downtown Seneca, still a vibrant small town.